

Friday Flyer

Friday 25th September 2026

Headteacher Update

We are so fortunate to benefit from involvement from our local community, on both a grand and a smaller scale. Last year, Bellway Homes donated a shelter for our woods and this has enhanced our forest school provision for many of our children. Just this week, Dobbies Garden Centre has donated a wonderful range of hardy plants for our nursery garden. We now have beautiful lavender, heathers and hebes which our nursery pupils have planted and watered, adding lots of colour and interest for the children to enjoy. We are looking forward to watching the children get hands-on with nature, learning how to care for plants and seeing them grow. A big thank you Dobbies for their kind donation and for helping us make our nursery such a lovely space for the children to explore and enjoy!



Speaking of community involvement, our long term dream for our school is to have an arts studio where music and art can be taught. If anyone in our community has contacts who might be able to support us with realising this dream, then we would love to hear from you!

Best wishes,
Claire Johnson

Safeguarding & Wellbeing

As autumn sets in and the dark nights creep up on us, it's a good time to talk to the children about how to keep safe when they are out and about, particularly our Year 5 and 6 pupils who walk home alone. We will be sharing the 'Clever Never Goes' message in our class assemblies over the next few weeks and there is a link to a parent resource [here](#) so you can reinforce this important message at home. You will also receive this resource via email.



clever never goes!

Whether you're a parent, carer, friend or guardian angel, this pack is an easy guide to teaching **Clever Never Goes** to the children in your life.

Clever Never Goes has been developed to replace the out-dated 'stranger danger' approach. Teaching children simply to avoid strangers doesn't work. Most strangers will help rather than harm children. Conversely, it is often people known to children that pose the greatest threat.

Clever Never Goes moves the focus away from strangers and instead teaches children to recognise when someone (anyone) is asking them to go with them. It's easy for them to remember, and for you to teach!

3 clever, easy steps

1. Don't tell your kids to fear strangers, instead talk to them about who they are allowed to go with: Mum, Dad, Grandma, the childminder, best friend's parents, etc. Settle on a short list of 'safe' people. Kids usually love this bit and always come up with some funny suggestions.
2. Tell your kids how clever they are and that you want them to use their cleverness when they're outside so they can stay safe.
3. Tell them there's one easy rule to remember: **CLEVER NEVER GOES**.

! CLEVER NEVER GOES MEANS NEVER GO ANYWHERE WITH ANYONE UNLESS IT WAS PLANNED BEFOREHAND. !

Make sure they understand by asking them to explain the **CLEVER NEVER GOES** rule to you.

REPEAT, REPEAT, REPEAT. Kids learn through repetition so this conversation shouldn't be a one-off. Remind them of the rule when you drop them off at school and clubs, when you go out shopping together, or when they go outside to play.

Please print this out and pass onto friends, relatives or other parents you know.

We are looking for donations to develop teaching resources and create a national awareness campaign. If you would like to donate to help us keep children safe, please visit www.clevernevergoes.org



At primary school, children who attend nearly every day in Year 6 (95–100% attendance) have 30% higher odds of reaching the expected standard in reading, writing and maths compared to similar pupils who attend 90–95% of the time.

Please work with us to help your child's attendance stay above 95% throughout their time in primary school.

Attendance for this week is summarised below

Nursery Acorn		95.4%	
Reception Chestnut	94.7%	3 Pine	99.0%
Reception Pinecone	92.7%	4 Alder	94.0%
1 Holly	99.7%	4 Yew	94.7%
1 Ash	99.3%	5 Oak	98.7%
2 Sycamore	95.3%	5 Beech	95.8%
2 Willow	96.7%	6 Elm	97.2%
3 Maple	98.7%	6 Birch	92.9%

Whole school (cumulative from Sept)	97.1%
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98% - 100%	Excellent Attendance
95% - 97.9%	Good Attendance
92% - 94.9%	Caution - Below National Average
90% - 91.9%	Cause for Concern
Below 89.9%	Persistent Absence - Serious Concern

Absence Procedures

If your child is ill, please keep them at home until they are well enough to return to school. **Please notify us by phone call or email before 9.15 am** if your child is to be absent, and continue to inform us on a daily basis if they continue to be ill.

We have a continual focus on attendance and punctuality and this is of the utmost importance in your child's education. Please remember that our school gate closes at 8.55 am as this is when our lessons begin. Anyone arriving after this time is classed as late and will miss valuable learning opportunities which take place immediately after registration, such as phonics.



PELE TRUST PRIMARY
CAREERS

CAREER FACT

Did you know that the North East has a growing **space industry**? People in our region work in careers connected to satellites, engineering, science and technology. You never know where your curiosity about space could take you!

The North East has around 48,000 jobs across defence and its growing space cluster

 **Talk about it at home:** What would you like to send into space if you could design your own spacecraft?

Career of the week...



STEM PERSON
OF THE
WEEK

Kirsty Lindsay

Assistant Professor of Physiotherapy

Kirsty is a physiotherapist and researcher who helps people recover from injuries using exercise. She also studies how astronauts can stay healthy in space. She is **imaginative** and designs experiments and creates exercise equipment to test new ideas. Kirsty is **curious** and studies how astronauts' bodies change in space to find better ways to help people on Earth. She is **committed** and balances three different parts of her job: research, treating patients in her clinic and training new physiotherapists.

Imaginative

Curious

Committed



Opal Needs You!

We would love to receive footballs that
are still in good condition



Please chat to your child before making any donations to help them understand that the footballs will be shared and won't belong to them.

Thank you!

This Week in Nursery

This week we introduced PE to Nursery! The children had lots of fun getting their bodies moving and exploring different ways to travel safely around our space.

We started by warming up with our 'Bean Game', following different instructions and getting our bodies ready for exercise. We then thought about how we can move safely, travelling forwards and backwards, as well as practising starting and stopping when asked.

The children did a fantastic job listening, following instructions and being aware of the space around them. It was a brilliant first PE session!



This Week in Reception

What an exciting week it's been in Reception! Our little learners have officially kicked off their phonics journey, getting to grips with **s, a, t, and p**—and have been introduced to the difference between a **grapheme** (what it looks like) and a **phoneme** (what it sounds like)! In maths, they've been using their super speedy spotting skills for **subitising 1, 2, and 3** in different pictures, and also practically with items. Pencil control is coming along nicely thanks to our "**nip, flip, grip**" technique, while fine and gross motor skills are being put to the test both inside the classroom and out on the yard. To top it all off, the children are filling the air with music as they learn lots of wonderful new songs for our upcoming Harvest Festival!



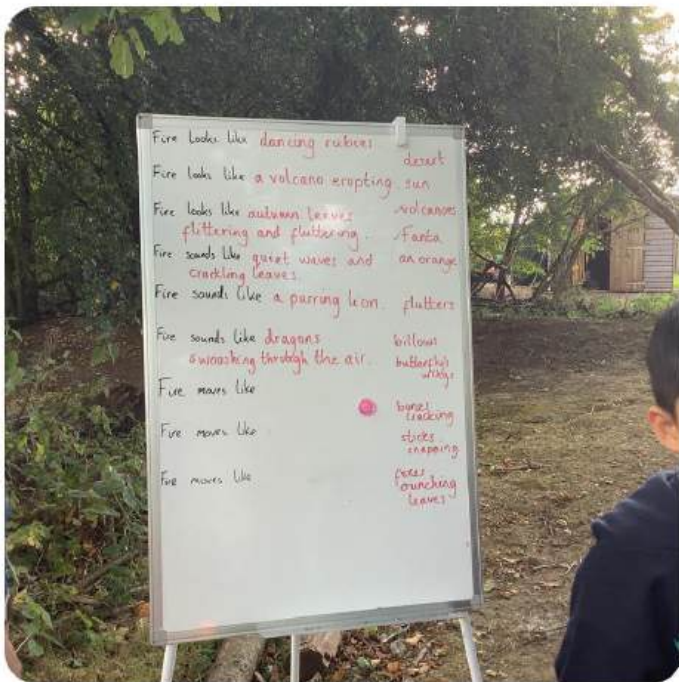
This Week in Year 1

Our science topic this half term is Seasonal Change, and we have been learning all about the different types of weather we experience throughout the seasons. To celebrate the first day of autumn on (a very warm sunny) Tuesday, we headed into the forest for an Autumn Hunt! We spotted lots of signs that the season is changing, including colourful leaves, beech nuts, pine cones and even some crab apples.



This Week in Year 2

As part of their learning about The Great Fire of London, Year 2 have been exploring fire poetry in their English lessons. At the beginning of the week, we visited the forest for a real fire. We sat and watched the fire and then used our senses to think about what the fire looks like, sounded like and moved like. We used similes to create descriptive sentences that we wrote up in the forest. Later in the week, we then wrote our own fire poems using ideas that we had created together.



This Week in Year 3

Year 3 has been putting fantastic effort into PE this week as we continue our invasion games unit! We are delighted to be working alongside Jamie from the Newcastle United Foundation, who led an energetic session focusing on the key skill of shielding the ball and beating defenders. The children worked tirelessly on their body positioning, balance, and spatial awareness to keep possession away from defenders, showing brilliant determination and teamwork throughout. Jamie was thoroughly impressed by their enthusiasm and growing confidence. Well done for working so hard, Year 3!



PIC•COLLAGE

This Week in Year 4

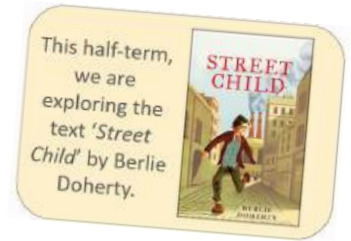
Year 4 have been math superstars this week, working incredibly hard to master rounding numbers to the nearest 10, 100, and 1,000. To celebrate all their progress, we wrapped up the week with some friendly competition, putting our new skills to the test in a fast-paced board game where quick rounding was the key to victory! Ask your child to show off their skills at home this weekend!



This Week in Year 5

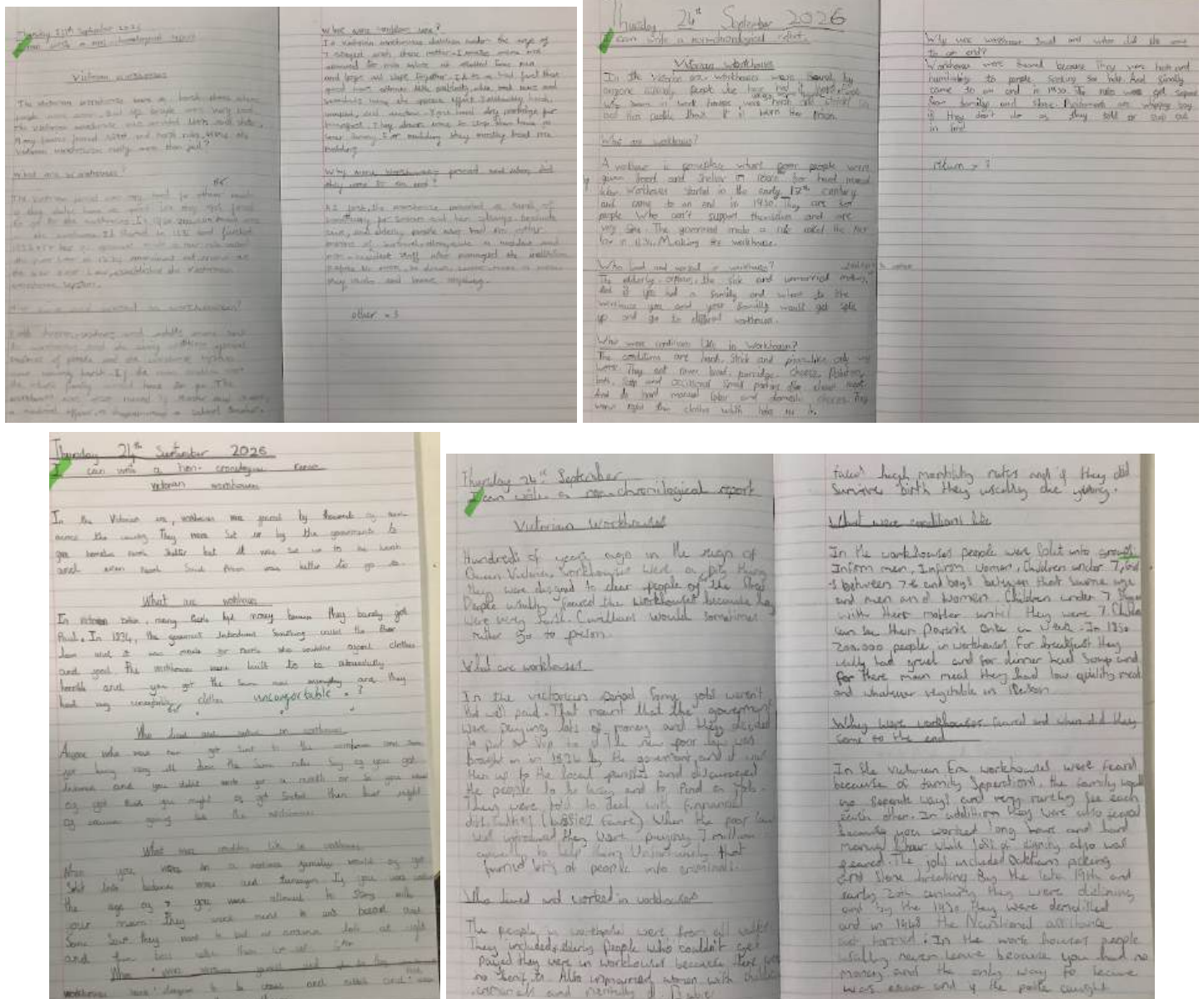
Work, Work, Work

This week, Year 5 embarked on their first longer piece of writing. Inspired by our class text, *Street Child*, we researched Victorian workhouses during the 19th century. We then used our research to produce reports about what life was really like inside these institutions. It was lovely to see the children's fluency and determination when writing; a key skill as they move into upper key stage two.



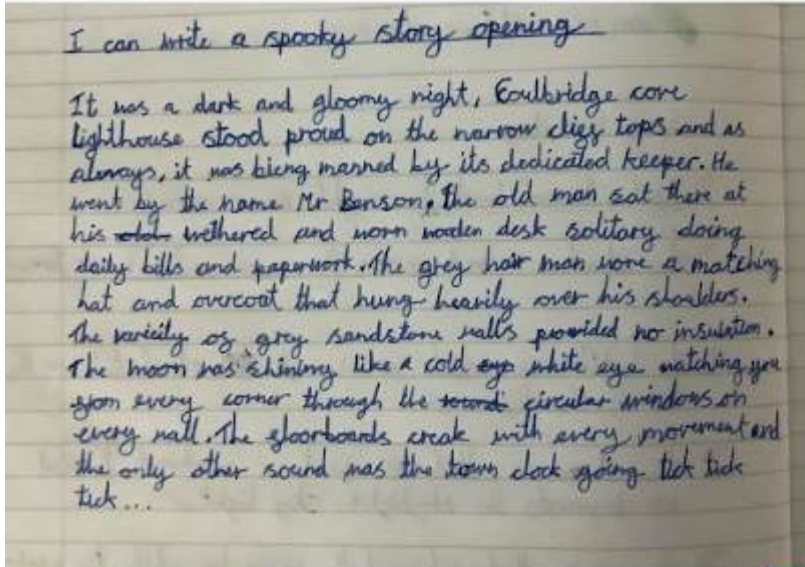
The children wrote under four, main subheadings: What are Workhouses?; Who lived and worked in Workhouses?; What were the conditions like? and Why were workhouses feared and when did they come to an end?

The children wrote with amazing fluency and produced some lovely writing for such an early point in year 5. Take a look at these fantastic examples:



This Week in Year 6

Year 6 have thrown themselves into the spooky world of creative writing in English this week! Inspired by a short video set around a mystery lighthouse, pupils have been mastering techniques to build tension and suspense. After exploring ambitious vocabulary and refining their sentence structures, the week ended with some fantastic story openings. We have been so impressed by the standard of writing!



PIC•COLLAGE

Miss Allan and Mrs Main

Dates for Your Diary in 2026/2027



Tue 20th October 2026	Yr 6 Trip - Packed lunches NOT needed
Fri 23rd October 2026	Teacher Training Day (school closed to pupils)
W.C. 26th Oct 2026	Half Term
Mon 2nd Nov 2026	Teacher Training Day (school closed to pupils)
Tue 3rd Nov 2026	School Resumes
Mon 23rd Nov 2026	Flu Immunisation Day
Wed 25th Nov 2026	Individual Photo Day
Fri 18th Dec 2026	Last day of school - 1.30pm finish
Mon 4th Jan 2027	School Resumes

Opal Needs You!

The children thoroughly enjoy exploring the different zones of OPAL and it has really enhanced our playtime experience. If you are having a clear-out, we would love to take some of your old equipment off your hands. If you have any of the following items, please bring them to the school office after the Christmas break:

- Footballs
- Wellies
- Waterproofs
- Barbies/dolls
- Toy trucks/cars
- Dressing up items
- Metal pots and pans
- Children's Gardening Tools
- Shop items: till, fruit and veg baskets etc

After School Club Needs You!

We would love to take any of these off you:

- Loom Bands
- Complete Jigsaws
- Lego & Duplo
- Chess Sets
- Knex
- Dolls House Furniture
- Beads





PRE-LOVED SCHOOL UNIFORM



Do you have Ponteland Primary School uniform in GOOD condition that your child no longer wears but could be worn by someone else in our school community?



Please donate your pre-loved, wearable uniform via the donation basket in reception.

Looking for uniform?

Follow this link to let us know what you're looking for. Uniform will be delivered to your child's class.

Voluntary contributions to the FPPS are welcomed. Donate here or at the money box at reception.



Friends of
Ponteland Primary School

[Preloved Uniform Order](#)



PRE-LOVED SCHOOL UNIFORM



✓ Yes please



✗ No thank you



No frayed or
ripped items



No stained
items



No grey items
needed at
this time

HIGH SCHOOL ITEMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

Please donate your pre-loved, good condition
PPS uniform via the donation basket in
reception.



Friends of
Ponteland Primary School





Got an itch? Tummy trouble? Tickly cough?

NHS



**Head to your
local pharmacy.**

Did you know?
Pharmacists across
the North East and
North Cumbria can
offer advice and FREE
treatment for a wide
range of common
conditions* – just like
having a prescription
from your GP!

**Please ask your
pharmacy team
for more details.**

UTI's non pregnant women 16–64 years

Shingles 18 years+

Impetigo 1 year+

Sore throat 5 years+

Sinusitis 12 years+

Infected insect bites 1 year+

Earache 1 to 17 years

*Additional conditions can be treated, without the need to visit a GP, under the minor ailments scheme. Please ask your pharmacist for more details.

Step 1

**Go to your local community pharmacy (chemist)
about your illness and they will offer advice.**

Step 2

**If needed, you will be offered treatment and
if you qualify, this will be given free of charge.**

Step 3

A suitable medicine may be offered to you.*

*You qualify for free treatment if you do not pay for your prescriptions.



**Find further information at:
www.thinkpharmacyfirst.health**



Can you help the Friends of Ponteland Primary School?

PONTELAND PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA

Ways you can help...



EMPLOYER

Are you employed by one of the biggest employers in the North East who offer Grant Match Fundraising? Could they help you help your School? Or will they allow you paid time away from work to help with fundraising events? Chat to your HR department today to see if there's a way to help!



ACCENTURE
PROCTOR & GAMBLE
NISSAN
SAGE
GREGGS
BARBOUR
DELOITTE
VIRGIN MONEY
BELLWAY
NORTHERN POWERGRID
VERTU
...AND MANY MORE



TIME

Do you have time available to help plan, organise, set up, clean up and be a volunteer at our many fundraising events throughout the year? We appreciate any available time, even if just for one event. Please contact us on pontelandpta@gmail.com

MONEY

We understand that time is not something everyone has to offer and we are often asked about the ability to make regular or one off cash donations to the PTA as an alternative. Should you wish to do so please reference 'Donation' along with your name to the Ponteland Primary PTA account:
Acc no: 20669059
S.C: 20-59-61



SKILLS

Do you have a skillset that could help the School PTA? Marketing, PR, Graphic design, finance, events planning, social media and so many more skills are valuable to us. This may be offered as your time or as feedback to what you see and experience from the PTA.

"WHEN PARENTS ARE ENGAGED AND TAKE PART IN SCHOOL AFFAIRS, IT CREATES A POSITIVE AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR STUDENTS"

Pontelandpta@gmail.com



Ponteland Primary School is committed to keeping all children safe. Our staff regularly participate in safeguarding training and are fully aware of how to keep our pupils safe and what signs to look out for.

Our pupils know they can share any concerns and we have robust policies and procedures in place which underpin safeguarding. It is our paramount priority to keep all children healthy and safe.

Our Designated Safeguarding Leads are:



Mrs Johnson
(Head Teacher)
Lead DSL



Mrs Wright
(Family & Behaviour Support Adviser)
Deputy DSL



Miss Dinning
(Deputy Head Teacher)
Deputy DSL